(c) by when Government would give clearance for the refinery crude pipeline that has to eminate from Western off-shore near Jamnagar in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) No Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) The Ministry has received two proposals for seeking foresty clearance under the provisions of Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 *i.e.* one each for the States of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh for laying crude oil pipeline in favour of Bharat Oman Refinery Ltd. for Bina Refinery Project.

The proposal for the Madhya Pradesh portion, involving 15.177 hectare of forest land, has been approved in principle on 22-8-2001.

Similarly, the proposal for the Gujarat portion, requiring 30.0318 hectare of forest land, has been approved in principle on 7-12-1999 subject to the condition of approval by the State Government under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. A portion of the pipeline passes through the Marine National Park. In view of the Supreme Court order banning felling/removal of trees from National Park/ sanctuary, a meeting was held with the State Government officials and the project authorities recently and the project authorities have been advised to lay pipeline in the portion forming part of National Park/sanctuary by horizontal drilling at such a depth so that there is no subsidence or vibration on the surface and there is no adverse impact of laying the pipeline on the forest and wildlife inside the sanctuary/National Park.

Both the above-mentioned in-principle approvals are subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. After receipt of compliance reports on fulfilment of these conditions from the State Governments, formal clearance shall be granted by the Central Government.

Killing of frogs of rare species

†4329. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a provision for punishment of imprisonment upto one to six years or fine of Rs. 10,000 to the persons killing frogs of some protected species;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the names of such species; and

(c) the number of criminals punished so far?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Persons indulging in poaching and illegal trade of frogs (Genus Rana) are liable to be punished with imprisonment upto three years or with fine upto a maximum amount of rupees twenty five thousand (Rs. 25,000) or with both.

(c) The information regarding poaching and illegal trade of only critically endangered species is compiled and collated at the level of Central Government and hence information regarding number of persons punished for offences of killing of frogs are not maintained.

Cutting forests by Century Pulp and Paper Mills in Uttaranchal

†4330. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that forests are being cut down speedily by the Century Pulp and Paper Mills in the Lalkuan area of Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to check cutting of forests?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Government of Uttaranchal has intimated that steps have been taken for strengthening the forest protection machinery and also amending the Indian Forest Act, 1927 making penalties against illicit fellings more stringent. The State Government has constituted Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) in 1200 villages and *Van Panchayats* in another 6700 villages for protection and development of forests.

Cities covered under Ganga Action Plan in Uttaranchal

†4331. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of cities of Uttaranchal covered under Ganga Action Plan, as on date;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.